

Dear Colleague:

June 11, 2007

We would like to invite you to join us September 13-14, 2007, in Albuquerque, NM for a workshop on the design and practice of Computer Aided Dispute Resolution (CADRe) for water resource management.

Agencies are experimenting with a variety of approaches to facilitate decision-making for the often contentious issues water resources management. One approach, generally termed computer-aided Dispute Resolution (CADRe), aims to inform and facilitate stakeholder negotiations with simulations of outcomes and consequences of different choices. The Corps of Engineers describes its approach as "shared vision planning." Other federal and state agencies, as well as private firms, have developed similar decision support processes. Given the multiple and varied place-specific problem situations and the many different agencies of government, it is understandable that the CADRe approach has been diverse and varied. As a result there has been limited opportunity for a sharing of these experiences in order to discuss and identify the requirements for successful CADRe.

The goal of this workshop, sponsored by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Institute for Water Resources, along with Sandia National Laboratories and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, is to bring practitioners from the public and private sector with experience and commitments to CADRe together: The goals are

- 1) To advance the understanding of key features of CADRe design that contribute to successful water resource management decision making.
- 2) To raise awareness among federal and state agencies about the potential, opportunities and limitations of CADRe as a means to navigate situations of high conflict.

The workshop will begin with a conceptual presentation that defines the elements of a CADRe process and suggests barriers and opportunities. This paper will set the stage for facilitated discussions among all session participants organized around interviews and presentations of case examples. Each person in attendance will have the opportunity to draw comparisons, report on and ask about lessons learned from the cases and discuss the possibility for applying CADRe in resolving water conflicts. A proceedings document will be prepared and distributed following the workshop to all participants.

An information sheet is attached. Because this is an invitation only workshop, and because we value your attendance, we ask that you contact Kelly Barnes by **June, 30 2007**, at 703-428-9090 / kelly.j.barnes@usace.army.mil to confirm your participation.

A draft agenda will be sent to you soon. We look forward to your response and to seeing you in Albuquerque!

Sincerely,

Hal Cardwell, Institute for Water Resources, USACE
Vince Tidwell, Sandia National Laboratories
Mike Eng, U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution